

Message Text

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TAGS: SOP, PFOR, PINT, RO, HU
SUBJECT: RFE COVERAGE OF ROMANIAN HUNGARIAN MINORITY ISSUE

REF: STATE 158291 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. RFE'S HUNGARIAN SERVICE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE -- BUT RESTRAINED -- ATTENTION TO JUNE 15 AND 16 CEAUSESCU-KADAR MEETINGS IN BORDER CITIES OF DEBRECEN AND ORADEA, WHILE ROMANIAN SERVICE COVERED THE MEETINGS SOMEWHAT LESS EXTENSIVELY. BOTH SERVICES VIEWED ISSUE OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN ROMANIA AS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF ROMANIAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. CONGEN POLOFF FOUND NOTHING REPEAT NOTHING WHICH SMACKED OF IRREDENTISM OR COULD BE CONSTRUED AS "PUTTING INTO QUESTION" WHETHER TRANSYLVANIA FORMS PART OF ROMANIA. END SUMMARY.

2. THE HUNGARAIN SERVICE'S APPROACH. HUNGARIAN SERVICE PORTRAYED TALKS AS SERIOUS EFFORT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. SERVICE THOUGHT "MOST TANGIBLE" RESULTS WERE IN ECONOMIC FIELD. AGREEMENT TO OPEN HUNGARIAN CONGEN IN CLUJ AND ROMANIAN CONGEN IN DEBRECEN WAS ALSO SEEN AS SIGNIFICANT. SERVICE NOTED
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THAT FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND THE CEAUSESCU-KADAR TOASTS INDICATED THAT "NATIONALITY GROUPS" PLAY ROLE OF "CONNECTING LINK" IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND NATIONS. SERVICE'S MOST SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS STATEMENT- THAT ACCEPTANCE OF IDEA THAT NATIONALITY GROUPS CAN CONSTITUTE SUCH A LINK "CAN ONLY BE WELCOME." SERVICE WAS CAREFUL TONOTE THAT COMMUNIQUE ALSO INDICATED THAT

PROBLEM OF NATIONALITIES IS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR.

3. ROMANIAN SERVICE'S APPROACH. THE ROMANIAN SERVICE SAW KADAR'S PRESENCE IN ORADEA AS INDICATION OF A MORE GENEROUS ATTITUDE ON PART OF ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT TOWARD ITS HUNGARIAN MINORITY. SERVICE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT CEAUSESCU'S ACCEPTANCE OF CHARACTERIZATION OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN TRANSYLVANIA AS PLAYING ROLE OF "BRIDGE" LINKING THE TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT BE REGARDED AS A CONCESSION ON HIS PART. BOTH SERVICES DREW HEAVILY ON WESTERN MEDIA SOURCES AND TEXTS OF TOASTS AND FINAL COMMUNIQUE IN THEIR TREATMENT OF CEAUSESCU-KADAR TALKS.

4. COMMENT: IN CONGEN'S JUDGMENT, RFE TREATMENT OF CEAUSESCU-KADAR TALKS WAS CHARACTERIZED BY RESPONSIBILITY AND RESTRAINT. CONGEN FOUND NOTHING IN HUNGARIAN SERVICE'S TREATMENT OF TALKS WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED BY DISPASSIONATE OBSERVER AS AIMED AT AROUSING NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENTS OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN TRANSYLVANIA. CONGEN DID FIND REFERENCE IN EARLIER HUNGARIAN SCRIPT TO "TWO MILLION" HUNGARIANS LIVING IN ROMANIA. CONGEN HAS CALLED THIS APPARENT EXAGGERATION OF SIZE OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY TO ATTENTION OF RFE MANAGEMENT.

5. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT CONGEN POLOFF WAS ABLE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REVIEW HUNGARIAN SCRIPTS IN ORIGINAL, BUT HAD TO RELY ON SUMMARIES OF ROMANIAN SCRIPTS.GILMORE

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